

THE BOY SOLDIERS OF THE REBELLION

The Martial Achievements of "Infants In Arms"

By ROBERTUS LOVE

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WHO was the youngest Union soldier in the civil war? Every little while this interesting question is asked, immediately springs up a troop of claimants, either for themselves or for others. Very probably the youngest soldier is not now alive, and if alive he is a grizzled veteran, for it is forty-three years since the war ended.

MR. PRESIDENT, I WAS IN THE WAR. Some of the striplings who wore muskets were surprisingly youthful, while there were drummer boys of amazingly tender years. Perhaps the youngest drummer was Johnnie Brooks, later John F. Brooks, Esq., who practiced law at Ellsworth, Kan. Johnnie went into the service as a drummer boy at the age of nine years. He served from July, 1863, to August, 1865. But he was not enlisted. His father was a fifer in the musicians' corps, and the boy went along to beat a drum. One of Johnny's sad duties was to beat the dead march in Indianapolis when the body of President Lincoln was borne through the streets there to lie in state for a brief time during the journey from Washington to Springfield. Thirty years after the war this drummer boy's congressman introduced a resolution to have the secretary of war muster in and discharge John F. Brooks, so that he might get the regular pay for his two years of service.

Only a few months ago an application was received by the New Jersey adjutant general for a civil war veteran's medal, as provided by the state legislature, for Daniel Williams, who was believed to have been the youngest drummer boy regularly enlisted. Williams went into the volunteer service when he was eleven years, five months and sixteen days old. That was in 1862. He served with both New Jersey and Pennsylvania volunteers. Mr. Williams now resides in Washington.

One of the most remarkable records for a drummer boy is that made by John L. Clem, now a colonel in the regular army. Clem was the famous "drummer boy of Shiloh." After General Grant became president in 1869 a youth scarcely eighteen years of age gained admittance to the White House. "Mr. President," he said, "I came to request you to admit me to the Military academy at West Point."

"Why don't you take the regular examination?" asked the president. "I have done so, but I failed to pass," admitted the boy. "That is very unfortunate," said the president, "but you should have studied harder."

"Mr. President," said the applicant, "while the other boys who took the examination with me were in school I was in the war."

"What?" exclaimed the president. "What war?" "The civil war. I served four years." The soldier president looked the youth in the eye. John Clem produced his papers, showing that he told the truth. President Grant commissioned him as second lieutenant in the regular army.

Another drummer boy whose record shines brightly was J. C. Julius Langbein, who in later life became a well known city judge in New York. When a mere boy he enlisted as a drummer in the Ninth New York volunteers, known as the Hawkins zouaves, a regiment which did some of the fiercest and most picturesque fighting of the war. He was the youngest drummer boy from New York state and was said to be the third youngest in all the Union armies. Langbein served chiefly in the Virginia campaigns. Like the big soldiers in his regiment, he was dressed in the zouave uniform, with baggy knee trousers and short, flaring jacket, his head covered with a tasseled cap. So slight and childish Langbein looked that he seemed out of place among the strong, rough men around him, but every man in the regiment loved the little drummer boy. One big soldier who had a sweetheart up home named Jennie declared that the boy looked like "the girl he left behind him," so the drummer was known by his grownup comrades as "Jennie" Langbein.

Adjutant Bartholomew of "Jennie's" regiment took a particular interest in the boy. He had promised Langbein's mother that he would look after the little fellow as well as he could. At the battle of Camden, or Sawyer's Lane, near the southern end of the Dismal swamp canal, the Hawkins zouaves made a desperate charge. A fragment of exploding shell blew a frightful

furrow in the neck of Adjutant Bartholomew, who, crazed by the shock and pain, staggered outside the Federal formation and wandered aimlessly about between the lines in a zone of fire from both armies.

"Jennie" saw what happened to his friend. He rushed to the wounded man and managed to pilot him to a place of reasonable safety. Giving Bartholomew a drink of water from his canteen, the little drummer dashed away to find the regimental surgeon. The doctor probed the wound with his fingers and told the boy that the adjutant was done for and it would do no good to move him. But after the doctor had gone to other duties the boy hunted up the big drum major, Charles Wiley, who helped him carry Bartholomew to a house. When the Union forces were driven back, "Jennie" refused to leave his friend to fall into the enemy's hands. He succeeded in getting the officer into an army wagon and remained in attendance until Bartholomew was safe in the Federal hospital on Roanoke island. The adjutant recovered and told what the boy had done for him. More than thirty years later Judge Langbein received the medal of honor for that service.

Two other young drummers from New York were Fred W. Ritschy and Philip Corell, both with the Ninety-ninth volunteers. These boys were boon companions throughout their service of three years. After they returned home and grew up they married sisters and for many years lived within a few blocks of each other. Like "Jennie" Langbein, these boys saw much service in the region near Norfolk, Va. Mr. Ritschy in later life told some interesting facts about the life of the drummer boys.

"We lived the same as the soldiers," he said, "being served with the same sort of uniforms, generally too big, and the same sort of rations."



JOHNNIE BROOKS.

Phil Corell told how he and Fred Ritschy were put to bed one night by a motherly southern woman in her guest chamber, tucked in "just like mother used to do at home," and then given a good night kiss by the tender hearted Virginia lady, who had a boy of her own in the field fighting against them. Next morning their hostess gave them a fine breakfast and then loaded them down with yams.

Some years ago the Wisconsin legislature voted a gold medal to H. E. Francisco, living at that time in Mason City, Ia., in the belief that he was the youngest Union soldier who served in the civil war. Francisco had enlisted at fourteen years of age. Very soon stories began to appear in behalf of other "youngest soldiers." O. H. Wynn of Sioux City, Ia., had enlisted at the age of thirteen years and eleven months. J. L. Keplinger of Detroit gave his enlistment age as thirteen years and four months. Andrew F. Links of Chicago reduced this record by one month.

Then came Gilbert Van Zandt, also of Chicago, to take away the laurels of Links. Van Zandt's enlistment was on Aug. 31, 1862, at the age of ten years, eleven months and eleven days. He showed that he had joined Company D, Seventy-ninth Ohio volunteers, on that date at Port William, Clinton county, O., by special permission from the war department and that he was mustered out at Camp Denison on June 8, 1865. He drew a soldier's pay and did a soldier's duties for nearly three years. He was in the battle of Resaca, but later was assigned to duty at headquarters to carry dispatches. Van Zandt rode a pony during this service.

"JENNIE" LANGBEIN.

When he went to Washington to be mustered out his pony was taken away from him. He wanted to take the animal home, and he went to President Andrew Johnson and stated his case. The president personally wrote an order that the boy be permitted to keep the pony.

THEATRICAL NOTES.

Henry B. Harris Announces Plans For Next Season.

Mr Harris will make his first offering of the year early in August, by the presentation in New York of a new comedy by James Forbes, author of "The Chorus Lady."

The sixth season of the Hudson Theater will be inaugurated on August 24th with Robert Edeson in a new play, "The Call of the North," by George Broadhurst, and founded on Stuart Edward White's story, "Conjuror's House." Marjorie Wood who made her debut with Mr. Edeson in "Strongheart" in 1904 will be Mr. Edeson's new leading woman. Others who have been engaged to appear in this play are Mr. De Witt Jennings, Miss Beatrice Prentice, Mr. Burke Clarke, Mr. Macy Harlam, Mr. David Torrence, and Mr. Lawrence Eddinger.

Rose Stahl will open her third season in James Forbes' comedy, "The Chorus Lady," at the Grand Opera House in New York on Monday, September 7th, after which she will make a 28 weeks' tour of the West.

Early in September, Edgar Selwyn, now appearing in "Strongheart," under Mr. Harris' direction, will be seen in "Pierre of the Plains," a new play by Mr. Selwyn from Sir Gilbert Parker's "Pierre and His People."

Thomas W. Ross will also have a new play which is now being written for him by a well-known author.

Henrietta Crossman, whom, in conjunction with Maurice Campbell, Mr. Harris is offering in "The Country Girl," will open her annual New York engagement early in the season in this play.

Three companies of "The Lion and the Mouse" will be retained and sent through the country. Company "A" opening in Pittsburgh, Pa., on September 1st; Company "B" opening in Norfolk, Va., on September 14th; and Company "C" opening in New Rochelle, N. Y., on September 7th. For the first company Edmund Brees and Dorothy Donnelly will have the chief roles, both of whom will be withdrawn some time in November in order to appear in new plays, Mr. Brees in "The Nebraskan," a four-act play by Edith Ellis; and Miss Donnelly in a play by Charles Klein.

Mr. Harris will also produce during the early part of the season a new play by Elmer B. Harris, who collaborated with Miss Bonnar in "Sham," and a new play by Martha Morton entitled "The Bell of Liberty."

During Mr. Harris' visit abroad he will make arrangements with Miss Ruth St. Dennis who appeared under his management two seasons ago in a number of special matinees of East Indian dances, to appear in a series of matinees in the principal cities of the United States during the season of 1908-09.

Arrangements will also be made by Mr. Harris while in London for the presentation at one of Charles Frohman's London theatres of Rose Stahl in James Forbes' comedy, "The Chorus Lady."

HE WAS STILL COUNTING.

A doctor, now eminent, was at one time serving as interne in one of the Philadelphia hospitals as well as holding his own with a coterie of rather gay friends. On a certain morning the physician awoke to find that he had badly overslept. Sleepily donning his attire he hastened to the hospital and soon a stalwart young Irishman claimed his attention.

"Well, my man, what seems to be your troubles this morning?" inquired the doctor, concealing a yawn and taking the patient by the hand to examine his pulse.

"Faith, sor, it's all in me breathin', doctor. I can't git me breath at all, at all."

"The pulse is normal, Pat, but let me examine the lung action a moment," replied the doctor, kneeling beside the cot and lying his head on the Irishman's chest. "Now let me hear you talk," he continued, closing his eyes and listening attentively for sounds of pulmonary congestion.

A moment of silence.

"What will I be saying, doctor?" finally asked the patient.

"Oh, say anything. Count. Count one, two, three and up, that way," murmured the physician, drowsily.

"Wan, two, three, fur, six."

"When the young doctor, with a start, opened his eyes, Pat was continuing weakly, 'tin hundred an' sixty-nine, tin hundred an' sivity, tin hundred an' sivity-wan.—Success Magazine.

RUINED BY A "SURE THING"

A "sure thing," an "inside tip," has ruined more men than almost anything else. A splendid man committed suicide in New York not long ago because he lost everything on an "inside tip," for which he drew sixteen thousand dollars from the savings banks—every dollar he had in the world.

It had taken him many years of careful economy and self-sacrifice to accumulate his little fortune; but it was all lost in one foolish investment.

He thought he was going to make a big fortune; but, instead of that, the stock he bought went down, his margins were completely wiped out, and he found himself penniless.

The recent financial panic brought to light many good illustrations of the possibility of being ruined by a "sure thing." Scores of people who went down, lost their money on what they were led to believe were perfectly solid investments that were "sure to win."

Thousands of clerks, and many other people, with their small savings like a flock of sheep, followed the inside tip of some financier who is believed to know what is going to happen, and were ruined. The truth is, even the most level-headed business men and the most astute financiers do not know what is going to happen, as is shown by the fact that many of them were caught and seriously crippled in the late panic.

There are vast multitudes of people living in this country to-day in poverty, many of them homeless and even without the ordinary necessities, not to speak of the comforts of life, just because they could not resist the temptation to gamble, to risk enough to make them comfortable in some get-rich-quick scheme, which they were told was a "sure thing."—Success Magazine.



Did you read Mr. Ellers' "good advice" to a friend in buying a piano published in our previous issue?

If not, hunt up last week's paper and read it, because it gives an unbiased and unprejudiced opinion—from one of the best informed piano men in the United States to one of his friends, Mr. Ellers, the president of the Ellers Piano House—with forty stores under his personal control and with many years' experience in factory work—is beyond question better informed on musical instruments of all kinds than any other man in the West, consequently his advice was given intelligently.

To show Mr. Ellers' thoroughness in seeking reliable and authentic information, only last year he traveled to Europe—thousands of miles—to investigate one manufacturer's product. Many dealers would have merely taken the instruments and sold them regardless of what the future might bring to the buyers—not so Mr. Ellers—he must know, and so it has been with every piano—every musical instrument—placed in his stores for sale to the public, and in profiting by his experience you buy safely and are guaranteed absolute satisfaction, hence the Ellers "money back if not satisfied" guarantee—the strongest possible insurance to their customers.

Mr. Ellers said to his friend—"Buy a Kimball piano"—and he gave his reasons why.

No doubt the reader is considering the purchase of a piano, or a musical instrument of some kind, if so, call at one of the Ellers stores and examine the beautiful new style Kimballs. If not convenient to do so then write and ask for Kimball Catalogue "J," which will be sent by return mail and will give you reliable information as to prices, terms, etc.

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